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SUBJECT Education in Liaoyang Under Chinese  
Communist Occupation

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

EVALUATED INFORMATION FOR THE RESEARCH  
OF TRAINED INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS

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1. During the Chinese Communist occupation of Liaoyang (12-12, 41-16), which lasted from 6 February to 14 July 1948, revolutionary changes were made in the school system. In general, the educational system suffered; considerable damage was done to school buildings and school property. Liaoyang has long been known in the Northeast as a cultural center for a town of its size; a high standard of education has been maintained and there has always been a large number of schools in relation to the population.
2. Before the Chinese Communist occupation of Liaoyang there were seven middle schools. Under the Communist occupation the buildings and equipment of five schools were destroyed and the two schools remaining were combined to form one co-education school named the United Middle School. No textbooks were used; students took notes on all subjects taught and many class hours were devoted to singing farmers' songs. The total number of students in the United Middle School was approximately 1,500.
3. There were 19 primary schools in Liaoyang before the Communist occupation; these were increased to 20 under the occupation, although many of the original buildings of the 19 primary schools were left unused and suffered considerable damage, as the Chinese Communist authorities used other buildings to house the schools. In the lower primary schools the curriculum consisted of classes in Chinese language, arithmetic, and political education. There were special classes on "the meaning of production", and several hours per week were devoted to singing farmers' songs. The total number of hours per week in class was 28. In the higher primary schools classes were held in the following subjects: Chinese language, history, geography of the Northeast, political education, and arithmetic. The textbooks were published by the Northeastern Book Company or by the Education Department of the Liaonan Administration Office. Students were taught farmers' songs and held discussions on "methods of production"; they also participated in productive labor classes. The total number of hours in class per week was 31. Attendance in the lower primary schools was relatively small; many children who were supposed to be attending school peddled wares on the streets in order to make a living. Attendance in the higher primary schools was better.

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4. Former teachers who were long-established or well-known were usually dismissed from their posts following the Communist occupation of the town. Most of the teachers under the Communist regime were under 30 years of age. In addition, certain middle school students were selected to teach in the primary schools. All the persons who taught during the Chinese Communist occupation were given a special 21-day training course before they began teaching; before being allowed to teach they had to pass a qualifying examination. The subjects taught in this special course for teachers consisted of the following: The History of the Chinese Revolution; The T'ai P'ing Rebellion, The May 4th Movement, and The Way of HSIA T'ao-jan (a model farmer).
5. In general, discipline was lax in all the schools during the Chinese Communist occupation. All children were encouraged to air their views and to speak frankly. Teachers were not allowed to punish students, the students being encouraged to oppose their teachers if they believed themselves in the right. Little attention was paid to sanitation and health. For primary school expenses the authorities gave each class 12 pounds of unhusked grain per month. However, because of the constant food shortage in Liaoyang during the occupation period, the grain was given for a period of forty days only. Teachers in the higher primary schools were given about 200 pounds of corn per month, those in the lower primary schools received about 170 pounds of corn per month. Again because of the food shortage, teachers in the primary schools received grain for a period of forty days only. As in the primary schools, funds were very scarce in the middle schools; salaries were not paid in full.
6. The Chinese Communist authorities instituted a program of social education for adults. In the early period of occupation four reading rooms were established. Later these were merged into one, which was known as The Peoples' Education Hall. Plans were drafted for the establishment of "peoples' schools" and night schools, but these plans were never carried out. Cultural workers organized theater groups and some persons were employed to paint wall posters or pictures. Boys and girls in the middle schools were organized into mixed singing groups, and gave performances in the streets.

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